

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 9-14 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner for being drawn to a non-elected invention. By this Amendment, Claims 1-3 and 6 are canceled and Claims 4 and 7 are amended. The Applicants respectfully submit no new matter is presented herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 4-5, 7-8 and 15-16, although objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, i.e., Claim 1, would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form and to include all of the features of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

Pending Claims Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,441,716 to Rockenfeller in view of JP 61-171998 to Kurooka et al ("Kurooka") and U.S. Patent No. 4,393,924 to Asami et al. ("Asami"). As Claims 1 and 2 are canceled, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now rendered moot. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of the Claims 4, 5, 7, 8 and 15, and 16, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107348-00097.**

Respectfully submitted,
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